



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

3001 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3001

Tel 919-733-7011 • Fax 919-733-1221

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

June 27, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: LME Directors

From: Mike Moseley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "mm", written over the name "Mike Moseley".

Re: Peer Support Credentialing Process

We are very pleased to announce the initiation of the NC Division of MHDDSAS's Peer Support Specialist Credentialing process. We are aware that there is great passion and interest throughout North Carolina communities regarding the first steps in this process and we have attempted to ensure that as the new process unfolds, it will include many opportunities for input from those individuals who have a stake in its outcome. The process as described has been through several renditions, has been negotiated between the NC Division of MHDDSAS and the NC Division of Medical Assistance and is now approved for implementation. Please keep in mind that while many individuals may be interested and qualify for this initial application process, a Certified Peer Support Specialist is only required in the Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT) service. Certified Peer Support Specialists may also be employed as staff members of Community Support Teams and Social Setting Detoxification Programs.

Please share this information with your providers and with local consumer groups.

- **July 1, 2006- Ongoing**
Grandfathered Application period for Certified Peer Support Specialist
The first stage of the credentialing implementation will be a registry of all individuals who are currently employed to work as Peer Support Specialists. Applications for this initial stage will be accepted starting July 1, 2006 and the application materials can be found at the following web link:

www.behavioralhealthcareinstitute.org/pss

If you have questions about the application materials or would like to request an application packet be mailed, you may call the Peer Support Specialist Credentialing phone line at **(919) 843-6083** or by email peersupport@unc.edu

- Applicants who will be approved for the registry title of Certified Peer Support Specialist must meet the following qualifications:
 - Be currently employed in the role of a Peer Support Specialist and have at least 6 months paid work experience as a Peer Support Specialist.



- Present training certificates demonstrating their attendance and successful completion of a recognized training program for Peer Support Specialists. Training programs will need to be at least 40 hours in length.
 - Present training certificates demonstrating attendance and successful completion of 20 hours of training relevant to their position and/or work as a Peer Support Specialist.
 - Have at least 1 year of demonstrated recovery time between diagnosis and application for Certified Peer Support Specialist.
 - Submit a completed Supervisory Reference form.
 - Submit 2 completed Personal Reference forms.
- ***September 1, 2006***
Establishment of the Peer Support Specialist Advisory Committee. The role of the PSS Advisory Committee will be to meet on a regular basis to provide input to the PSS Certification Process as well as to the Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program and NC Division of MHDDSAS staff regarding the development of the process.
 - ***September, 2006***
Initiate a formal Role Delineation Study for the Peer Support Specialist Credential to determine the North Carolina specific core competencies and evaluation measurement processes appropriate for an effective Peer Support Specialists Credentialing Program. The Role Delineation Group will be representative of the Peer Support Specialist Stakeholders.
 - ***January 1, 2007***
Initiate the Peer Support Specialist In-Training Application Process. All Peer Support Specialists in a training phase and/or in a preparation for employment phase may complete an application process and hold the designation for Peer Support Specialist-In-Training. Applicants must complete a recognized Peer Support Training Process within 1 year of filing the In-Training Application. Upon completion of the above requirements and employment for a minimum of 6 months as a Peer Support Specialist, Applicant will qualify to complete a Certified Peer Support Specialist Application.
 - ***July 1, 2008***
Start of the 2-year Renewal application process initiated. All Certified Peer Support Specialists will submit a renewal application to maintain their active certification status and will need to verify successful completion of core competence training events as determined by the Role Delineation Process and agreed to by the NC Division of MHDDSAS and the NC Division of Medical Assistance.

We are very hopeful that the initiation of our Peer Support Specialist Credentialing Program will begin to actualize the NC Division of MHDDSAS's goal of integrating peer and consumer support and input into our system as well as provide a dynamic voice in the development of future consumer and peer driven processes.

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Allen Dobson, M.D.
Kory Goldsmith
DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team and Management Leadership Team
State Facility Directors
Janet Schanzenbach
Patrice Roesler
MH Commission Chair
Coalition 2001 Chair
State CFAC Chair

